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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/737,015	12/14/2000	Robert Olodort	03256.P010	8229

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EXAMINER

BUTLER, DOUGLAS C

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3683

DATE MAILED: 06/24/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/737,015

Applicant(s)

OLODORT ET AL.

Examiner

Douglas C. Butler

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 May 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 16-25 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. An action on the merits of claims 1-15 considered readable on Species embodies by Figures 10A-10B is included in this office action with claims 16-25 being withdrawn from consideration. 37 C.F.R. § 1.142(b). Election was made without traverse.
2. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).
3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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5. Claims 1-3, 5-6, 8, 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Barenyi(3190632) or WO 94/14626 to Ingvarsson et al or under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated Hellwig(US006158723).

Springs with central bumps are conventional.

6. Claims 4, 7, 9-12 and 14-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the prior art applied above.

Re the various features such as width of the center region of the spring relative to the width at the ends, the spring's width, height, particular deflection, etc., the instant specification does not indicate that the specific dimensions and shape are critical.

Re the various features in the claims directed to various dimensions, shapes, deflection capacity, sizes, it would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to one having ordinary skill in the art to which the invention pertains to modify each of the principal references to vary the dimensions, deflection capabilities, shapes, sizes, etc., as desired since such modifications would have involved changes within the ability of an artisan in the art in order to adapt the spring to a particular environment and utility. A change in size and shape is generally recognized as being within the level of ordinary skill in the art. Re particular dimensions involved, the various would have been obvious and to not set forth any patentably distinguishing advances over the prior art. The variations involve obvious matters of design choice not productive of any new and/or unexpected results. Also, see MPEP 2144.04 under the heading "Legal Precedent as Source of Supporting Rationale" re various changes in size and shape.

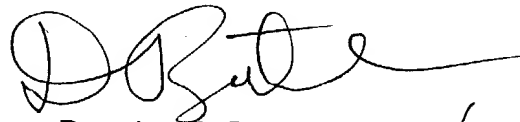
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Note the tapered width of the spring of Figures 4a and 4b of Barenyi(3190632) which corresponds to instant claim 7.

7. Re the numerous documents submitted which have been considered and made of record, the instant claims are directed to a spring per se of conventional configuration. The variety of documents directed to the keyboard art is not at issue since the field of invention claimed is to the subcombination technology directed to the spring of general utility. Re the feature of "tactile feedback", leaf springs have such "tactile feedback" in the broad sense of the phrase.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Douglas C. Butler whose telephone number is 703-308-2575. The examiner can normally be reached on m-f 5:30 am to 2pm.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.



Douglas C. Butler
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3683

6/18/04